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Trump's Iowa state fair spectacle clouds DeSantis as former president is joined by Florida officials



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Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks as he visits the Iowa State Fair, Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023, in Des Moines, Iowa.

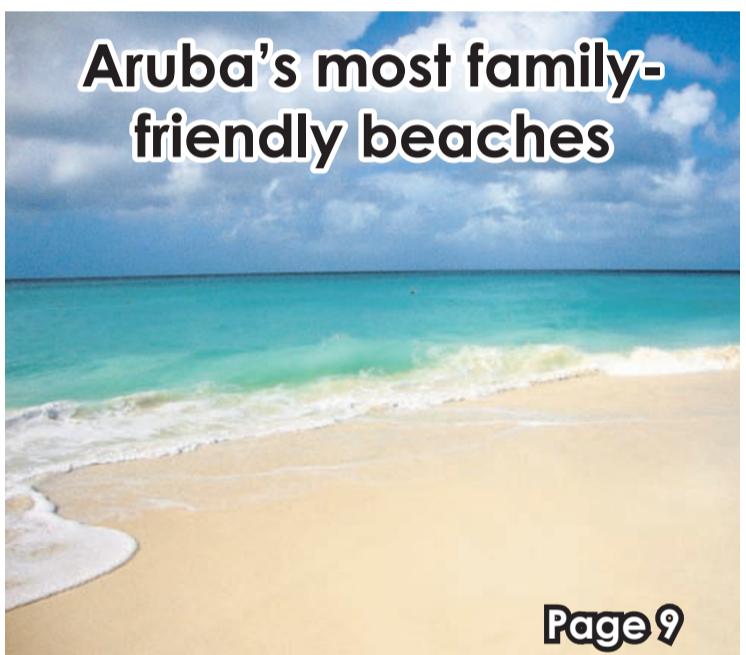
(AP Photo/Charlie Neiburgall)

Today is going to be a good day



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Aruba's most family-friendly beaches



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

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MONDAY
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VIOLINIST
6:30pm - 8:30pm

TUESDAY
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30pm - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

THURSDAY
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

FRIDAY
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7:00pm - 9:00pm

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Trump's Iowa state fair spectacle clouds DeSantis as former president is joined by Florida officials

From Front

By THOMAS BEAUMONT
and HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Gone was the helicopter, but Donald Trump on Saturday renewed his reputation for defying norms and creating a mega-celebrity's spectacle at the Iowa State Fair.

Trump, in fewer than two hours on the steaming fairgrounds in Des Moines, attracted thousands of sweating, chanting supporters to his stops at the Iowa Pork Producers tent, a baby farm animal exhibit and a popular Grand Concourse pub.

All the while, Trump not-so-subtly tried to set himself apart from Florida Gov. Ron

DeSantis, Trump's main rival with more than five months until Iowa's leadoff caucuses and who was on the fairgrounds at the same time. Just as DeSantis and his family were wrapping up their day at the fair, meeting with Iowa Republican leaders and activists, Trump descended into the huge scrum of backers accompanied by about a dozen

Florida U.S. House members, a shot at DeSantis who is making an aggressive pitch to Iowa Republicans. Trump spoke little to the public in his short time at the fair, except to talk individually to some fairgoers. However, he repeated during remarks to hundreds crammed into the fair favorite "Steer and Stein" the disproven claim that the 2020 election was "rigged," and that "we got millions and millions more votes."

Instead, while most candidates seeking caucus support tout Iowa political endorsements, Trump spent most of his public remarks introducing Florida lawmakers who traveled with him to Iowa. The effort, Trump aides said, demonstrates feelings of those who know DeSantis best, but also clearly stoke outrage among those who feel the former president has been persecuted with the two federal indictments he now faces.

"So to all my friends in Iowa when you see them come for this man, know that they are coming for this movement, and they are coming for all of us," said Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.

Before taking his three children to ride bumper cars and the Ferris wheel, DeSantis boasted about the delegation of state lawmakers in Iowa that flanked him when reporters asked about the Florida representatives surrounding Trump. DeSantis and other candidates at the fair called out Trump for his criticism of Gov. Kim Reynolds, who has taken a pledge of neutrality and hosted a series of one-on-one conversations that most GOP candidates accepted but Trump declined. Most

candidates effused praise on Reynolds throughout their appearances at the fair and enjoyed her company on walks around the fairground or flipping pork burgers. Former Vice President Mike Pence said he was "for Governor Kim Reynolds before it was cool." Business entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy encouraged fairgoers to give her a round of applause.

Trump also sought to soothe tension between him and Reynolds Saturday even though he didn't appear with her. But in addressing the drama with Reynolds, Trump repeated his claim that he was responsible for her election. Trump campaigned with Reynolds during her 2018 bid, which she won narrowly. She won reelection by a much larger margin in 2022.

For Trump's team, there was not a trace of concern in the air — given the concentration of supporters, the range of ages and the sea of Make America Great Again hats — about Trump's indictment this month on federal felony charges he worked to overturn the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Stopping briefly to talk to reporters, he declined to say whether he would comply with a protective order by the judge overseeing the election conspiracy case, limiting what the former president can publicly say about evidence in the investigation as he campaigns. Asked later whether he would agree to plead guilty to lesser charges, Trump called the reporter "a wise guy." "We don't do plea deals," he said. □

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Yes, inflation is down. No, the Inflation Reduction Act doesn't deserve the credit

By JOSH BOAK and PAUL WISEMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even President Joe Biden has some regrets about the name of the Inflation Reduction Act: As the giant law turns 1 on Wednesday, it's increasingly clear that immediately curbing prices wasn't the point.

While price increases have cooled over the past year — the inflation rate has dropped from 9% to 3.2% — most economists say little to none of the drop came from the law.

When the Inflation Reduction Act was proposed, the Congressional Budget Office said its impact on inflation would be "negligible." So why the name? It may ultimately help to hold down prices in the future — and it fit the politics of the moment.

The law was proposed shortly after the American public learned that consumer prices were climbing upward at the fastest pace in four decades. Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York had been holding private talks about Biden's agenda and put forth the name Inflation Reduction Act once they had a deal. Biden pledged at the time that it would "reduce inflationary pressures." The law is now at the core of Biden's pitch to voters going into the 2024 presidential campaign. But with inflation less of a pressing concern, the president is putting more emphasis on its provisions aimed at combating climate change, creating jobs and lowering people's health care bills.

While the law may not have crimped inflation over the past year, it could well do more in that regard going forward, since it just now is starting to be implemented. Along with the CHIPS Act, there are also signs that the Inflation Reduction Act helped to stimulate roughly \$500 billion in corporate announcements to invest in new factories. This has potentially helped



FILE - President Joe Biden speaks about the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Sept. 13, 2022. The one-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act being signed into law is on Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

to strengthen the job market despite efforts to bring down the inflation that many economists believed would pull the United States into a recession. That recession — as Biden predicted — has not materialized.

Even though the law did not immediately reduce inflation, it appears to have done little to cause prices to explode upward as Republicans had claimed it would. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said last August that Biden's agenda would push inflation upward, only to have the rate fall over the past year. Biden, on his three-state western swing this past week, emphasized to donors and voters how the law addresses climate change and promotes the creation of jobs as the economy moves toward renewable energy.

If it wasn't the IRA that deserves the credit, what did cause inflation to tumble? Economists are listing three big reasons:

—Oil and gasoline prices fell from last year's peak. Gas prices had spiked 60%

in June 2022 from a year earlier, caused in large part by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But gas prices steadily fell until this January, when they began to climb without having returned to their earlier peak.

—The Fed aggressively raised its benchmark interest rate, which made it more expensive to borrow and slowed demand that had been pushing up prices. The Fed's rapid hikes have nearly doubled average mortgage rates, pushing down existing home sales. Home prices have also declined slightly in the past year, which can put downward pressure on rental costs. Other interest-rate sensitive industries, particularly autos, have also seen prices fall after sharp increases during the pandemic.

—The supply chain kinks that caused shortages coming out of the pandemic got unsnarled. A measure of supply chain difficulties constructed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has fallen below even pre-pandemic

levels as shipping costs have declined.

Republican lawmakers and some economists blamed last year's high inflation on the administration's \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief as being excessive, yet any impact of that on inflation also appears to have now waned.

"The big moves in inflation are primarily global shocks," said Kristin Forbes, an economist at MIT and a former member of the Bank of England's interest-rate setting committee. "Those are the primary drivers, but not the only ones. What the Fed has done has also contributed, without a doubt."

Biden administration officials have said that their actions contributed to lower inflation. By releasing oil from the U.S. strategic reserve, they say, they reduced the financial pain at the gas pump. The administration also created a task force to improve U.S. port activity and supply chains.

The White House also stayed quiet on Fed rate hikes, giving the central bank the independence

to work without political pressure. Biden has been careful not to declare an outright victory against inflation, as it's still higher than the Fed's 2% target. But the White House says the cost savings from the Inflation Reduction Act are coming as the law is getting enacted. Tax credits will reduce the cost of installing rooftop solar panels by 30%, which will in turn lower monthly electricity bills. Tax credits also make it more affordable to install a heat pump to control a home's central air, possibly trimming energy bills by \$1,000 annually. There are other tax credits for energy efficient doors and windows as well as new insulation.

Electric utilities using the tax credits for renewable energy will pass roughly \$8.2 billion in savings to their customers. People can defray the costs of buying a new electric vehicle with a \$7,500 tax credit.

The law also has measures related to health care. Biden has often said in speeches that Medicare recipients will have the monthly cost of their insulin capped at \$35. Starting in 2025, there will be a \$2,000 limit on out-of-pocket prescription drugs that will save 19 million people on Medicare an average of \$400 annually. The CBO estimated that people enrolled in Medicare Part D, which involves prescription drugs, will have their personal costs lowered by \$25 billion in 2031.

Taken together, the law could help protect the U.S. economy against the rising oil costs and broken supply chains that triggered the most recent bout of high inflation.

"The IRA will be a big plus for the economy in the long-run as it reduces the economy's reliance on fossil fuels," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "It will make the economy less vulnerable to spiking oil prices, which have contributed to nearly every recession since World War II." □

Illinois governor signs ban on firearms advertising allegedly marketed to kids and militants

CHICAGO (AP) — Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has signed a law banning firearms advertising that officials determine produces a public safety threat or appeals to children, militants or others who might later use the weapons illegally — opening the door for lawsuits against firearms manufacturers or distributors.

Pritzker on Saturday signed the Firearm Industry Responsibility Act, making Illinois the eighth state to approve legislation that rolls back legal protections for firearms manufacturers or distributors. The legislation comes after the deadliest six months of mass killings recorded in the United States since at least 2006 — all but one of which involved guns.

Pritzker signed the bill alongside lawmakers and gun control advocates at Gun Sense University, an annual training conference of more than 2,000 Moms De-



FILE - Semi-automatic guns are displayed for sale at Capitol City Arms Supply, Jan. 16, 2013, in Springfield, Ill. Illinois will soon outlaw advertising for firearms that officials determine produces a public safety threat or appeals to children, militants or others who might later use them illegally, as the state continues its quest to curb mass shootings.

(AP Photo/Seth Perlman, File)

mand Action and Students Demand Action volunteers and survivors, hosted by Everytown for Gun Safety.

"We hold opioid manufacturers accountable. Vaping companies accountable. Predatory lenders ac-

countable. Gun manufacturers shouldn't get to hide from the law — and now, they won't be able to," Pritz-

ker said in a statement. The law took effect immediately.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul, a key backer of the law, said "by signing this legislation, Gov. Pritzker has taken an important step to protect consumers and increase public safety."

Democratic state Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, the bill's House sponsor, said any companies participating in "depicting guns as tools for carnage" will face serious penalties.

Opening the door to such court challenges is part of ongoing efforts by Democratic lawmakers in Illinois and elsewhere to eliminate gun violence, made more complicated by the U.S. Supreme Court's expansion of gun rights a year ago. Pritzker also signed a ban on semi-automatic weapons this year, a law that gun-rights advocates continue to challenge in federal court. □

South Carolina state Sen. John Scott, longtime Democratic lawmaker, dies at 69



FILE - South Carolina State Sen. John Scott speaks during a prayer vigil in remembrance of Cyrus Carmack-Belton, Friday, June 2, 2023, in Columbia, S.C. Scott, a longtime South Carolina state lawmaker who served in state government for more than three decades, died Sunday, Aug. 13, after a stint in the hospital, according to Democrats across the state.

(AP Photo/Erik Verduzco, File)

**By MEG KINNARD
Associated Press
COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)** — State Sen. John Scott, a longtime South Carolina lawmaker who served in state government for more than three decades, died Sunday after a stint

in the hospital, according to Democrats across the state. He was 69.

Scott had been at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston since Friday when he was hospitalized for an undisclosed medical issue, ac-

cording to Senate officials. In a statement released by Senate President Thomas Alexander, Scott's family said he "passed away peacefully while surrounded by family and close friends."

Scott, a Columbia Democrat, operated a realty company and had been in the Legislature for more than 30 years, serving most recently on the Senate's judiciary, medical affairs and penology committees. First elected to the state House in 1990, he won election to the Senate in 2008 and would have been up for reelection next year. He ran unopposed in the 2020 general election.

Marguerite Willis, who selected Scott as her running mate when she unsuccessfully sought the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 2018, told The Associated Press on Sunday that she was with Scott's fam-

ily in Charleston when he died. Recalling their history-making campaign — South Carolina's first-ever ticket composed of a white woman and Black man — Willis said she and Scott reflected recently on their campaign.

"John and I were just talking about this a month ago," Willis said. "We were proud of that, and what it said about harmony and diversity and the importance of having both sexes and two races together. It broadened our vision and our experience and thus our impact."

Willis, who said she hadn't known Scott until they became running mates, said their political affiliation quickly evolved in a close friendship.

A special election will be held to fill Scott's seat. According to statute, after the Senate's presiding officer calls for the election,

filings open on the third Friday after the vacancy, with the election to be held roughly three months later. Gov. Henry McMaster said in statement that Scott "will be deeply missed," and the governor's office said he would order flags lowered across the state once funeral arrangements were announced.

Scott's impact reverberated Sunday throughout South Carolina's Democratic circles.

Christale Spain, elected earlier this year as chair of South Carolina's Democratic Party and one of Scott's constituents, remembered him as someone who "used his voice in the General Assembly to fight not only for his district but for all South Carolinians and his life's work on issues of education, healthcare and economic development will have a lasting impact on our state." □

Polish government plans referendum asking if voters want 'thousands of illegal immigrants'

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Poland's ruling party wants to ask voters in a referendum whether they support accepting "thousands of illegal immigrants from the Middle East and Africa" as part of a European Union relocation plan, the prime minister said Sunday, as his conservative party seeks to hold onto power in an October parliamentary election.

Mateusz Morawiecki announced the referendum question in a new video published on social media. It indicated that his party, Law and Justice, is seeking to use migration in its election campaign, a tactic that helped it take power in 2015.

Poland currently hosts more than a million Ukrainian refugees, who are primarily white and Christian, but officials have long made clear that they consider Muslims and others from different cultures to be a threat to the nation's cultural identity and security. EU interior ministers in June endorsed a plan to share out responsibility for migrants entering Europe without authorization, the root of one of the bloc's longest-running political crises.

The Polish government



FILE - Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki talks to journalists as he arrives for the third EU-CELAC summit in Brussels, Belgium, Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Poland's ruling party wants to ask voters in a referendum if they support accepting "thousands of illegal immigrants from the Middle East and Africa" as part of a European Union relocation plan. The prime minister announced the referendum question Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023, in a new video published on social media as his conservative party seeks to stave off a challenge from the political opposition.

(AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert, File)

wants to hold the referendum alongside the parliamentary election, scheduled for Oct. 15. Morawiecki said that the question would say: "Do you support the admission of thousands of illegal immigrants from the Middle East and Africa under the forced relocation mechanism imposed by the European bureaucracy?"

The video announcing the question includes scenes of burning cars and other street violence in Western Europe. A Black man licks a huge knife in apparent anticipation of committing a crime. Party leader Jaro-

slaw Kaczynski then says: "Do you want this to happen in Poland as well? Do you want to cease being masters of your own country?"

An opposition politician, Robert Biedron, reacted by saying the migration question is pointless because participation in the EU mechanism is not mandatory and can be replaced by other forms of shared responsibility, while Poland itself could be eligible for support or for a waiver of its contribution due to the high number of Ukrainian refugees.

Biedron, a European Par-

liament member for the Left party, posted on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter, a letter from EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson. In it, she sets out the terms of the relocation mechanism and the grounds for seeking an exemption.

Leaders have announced two other questions in recent days. One will ask voters for their views on privatizing state-owned enterprises and the other will ask if they support raising the retirement age, which Law and Justice lowered to 60 for women and 65 for men. The questions are set up to depict the opposition party, Civic Platform, as a threat to the interests of Poles. The pro-business and pro-EU party, which governed from 2007 to 2015, raised the retirement age during its time in power, favored some privatization and signaled a willingness to accept a few thousand refugees before it lost power. The video takes aim directly at Civic Platform leader Donald Tusk, a former president of the European Council. "Tusk is the greatest threat to our security, he is the greatest threat to Poland's security," Morawiecki says. "Let's not let Tusk — as an envoy of the Brussels elites — demolish security in Poland." □

Taiwan's vice president leaves on Paraguay trip amid Chinese efforts to isolate the island

By TAIJING WU
Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan's vice president left Saturday on a trip to Paraguay to reinforce relations with his government's last diplomatic partner in South America at a time when China is stepping up efforts to isolate the self-ruled island democracy.

William Lai's trip includes stops in San Francisco and New York City, which Beijing criticized Washington for allowing. The mainland's ruling Communist Party claims Taiwan as part of its territory and says it has no right to conduct foreign relations.

Lai was due to attend the inauguration of Paraguayan President-elect

Santiago Peña on Tuesday.

Lai said he would meet officials of other governments "so that the international society understands Taiwan is a country that persists in its democracy, human rights and freedom and actively takes part in international affairs."

Paraguay is part of a dwindling group of 12 governments that have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. They are mostly small, poor countries in Africa and the Caribbean. Taiwan lost a partner this year when Honduras switched official recognition to Beijing.

Taiwan and China have been ruled separately since a civil war that ended



Taiwanese Vice President William Lai speaks before leaving for Paraguay at Taoyuan International Airport in Taoyuan, Taiwan, Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023.

(AP Photo/Chiang Ying-ying)

in 1949. They both claim sovereignty over each other's territory and refuse to have relations with governments that recognize the other side. □

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Argentines vote in a primary election that will gauge the yearning for change amid economic turmoil

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentines were voting Sunday in a primary election that will act as a bellwether ahead of October general elections and give a hint at how eager citizens are for a change in a country that is suffering one of the world's worst inflation rates.

The primary will determine who will be the presidential candidate in the main center-right opposition coalition in which Buenos Aires Mayor Horacio Rodríguez Larreta is facing off against former Security Minister Patricia Bullrich.

Whoever comes out on top will almost certainly be running against Economy Minister Sergio Massa, who is facing a leftist challenger to become the candidate of the ruling coalition. Center-left President Alberto Fernández decided not to run for reelection as he suffers from rock-bottom approval ratings amid annual inflation of more than 100%, rising poverty and a rapidly depreciating currency.

The primary will also finally give a firm answer on how much traction upstart right-wing populist candidate Javier Milei has gained with voters. An admirer of former U.S. President Donald Trump, Milei has attracted voters with an anti-establishment message that has particularly resonated with the young.



Presidential hopeful Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, with the United for Change coalition, voters during primary elections in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023.

(AP Photo/Natacha Pisarenko)

There were delays in the voting in some polling locations in the capital amid difficulties in the use of new electronic voting machines that were used to select candidates for mayor and other local positions. A judge in charge of the electoral process criticized what she characterized as the "degree of improvisation" and said the voting time could be extended as a result.

In the run-up to Sunday's vote, the campaign had been largely dominated by the sometimes-bitter contest between Bullrich and Larreta. Pollsters say the winner of this race will have a strong chance of becoming president amid general anger at the government due to the country's economic malaise. Asked about what the pre-primary discussions could mean for the coalition, Larreta assured journalists there would be unity after Sunday's vote. "Always together," Larreta said. "Yesterday, today, tomorrow, always together."

Former President Mauricio Macri (2015-2019), a leader in the main opposition coalition, called on Argentines to cast their ballot Sunday "to leave behind an era that has brought us so much harm and sadness."

The primaries are taking place with an undercurrent of concern over how the vote could impact the economy. Four years ago, an unexpectedly strong

showing by now-President Fernández led to a sharp depreciation of the currency as markets saw the primary results indicating that business-friendly Macri was on his way out.

After casting his ballot Sunday, Massa told journalists the Economy Ministry had been working on the issue.

"On Friday, from noon until the afternoon, and yesterday, back at the Economy Ministry, we worked with the team so that the week and the markets, in some way, do not influence people's everyday lives," Massa said.

Once results start coming in, particular attention will be paid for signs that the main center-right opposition could win the presidential election outright and avoid a second round runoff in November.

After casting his ballot, Fernández made clear he expects the presidential race won't be over quickly. "We have started an electoral process that will likely conclude in November," Fernández, who has been largely absent from the campaign, said. His vice president, Cristina Fernández, who was the country's president from 2007 to 2015, has also kept a low profile during the campaign so far. □



Armored vehicle and soldiers are seen on the grounds of the Deprivation of Liberty Center of the Zone 8, where Adolfo Macías, alias "Fito" considered the head of Los Choneros, an organized crime group, is being held, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023. Slain presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio accused Macías of having threatened him.

(AP Photo/Cesar Muñoz)

Leader of Ecuadorian crime gang moved to maximum-security prison days after candidate's killing

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (AP)

— Authorities moved the leader of one of Ecuador's most powerful gangs into a maximum-security prison Saturday, three days after the assassination of a presidential candidate who had denounced threats from the feared criminal. President Guillermo Lasso said the relocation of Los Choneros leader Adolfo Macías, alias "Fito," was meant "for the safety of citizens and detainees."

The gang boss was moved out of a jail with lighter security into a maximum-

security prison in the same large complex of detention facilities in the port city of Guayaquil.

"Ecuador will recover peace and security," Lasso tweeted. "If violent reactions arise, we will act with full force."

About 4,000 soldiers and police officers raided the jail where Macías was being held Saturday and seized weapons, ammunition and explosives. Corrections officials released images of the raid showing several prisoners, including Macías, who is serving a

34-year sentence for drug trafficking, organized crime and homicide.

Ecuador's transformation into a major drug trafficking hub and the ensuing three-year surge of violence reached a new level with Wednesday's assassination of Fernando Villavicencio during a campaign rally in Quito, the capital. The candidate, who was not a front-runner, was known for speaking up against drug cartels.

Authorities have not disclosed a motive for the killing. An Ecuadorian judge

on Friday ordered preventive detention for six Colombian men described by authorities as being suspected of involvement in the slaying.

Villavicencio, 59, was one of eight registered candidates for the Aug. 20 presidential election. He had accused Los Choneros and Macías, whom he linked to Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, of threatening him and his campaign team days before the assassination.

Villavicencio believed popular support would keep him safe. □



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Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately

they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie,

who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the Presi-



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

dent of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal

ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

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Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch



NOORD — We are in 2023. It was a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are fifteen plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.

From human to human

If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are looking for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that offers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want?

This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart."

One stop shopping point

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Eladio Max Maduro. Born in Aruba, he was raised in the Netherlands. Max was Corporal mandatory in the Dutch Army/Genie der Landmacht. He also studied financial administration in the Netherlands, and has a degree in Dutch insurance law. Max has 40 years work experience in all kind of insurance, specialized liability and pension law. In the past, he worked for local and international insurance brokers companies.

As per March 1st 2023, he is working as a commercial partner at Aruba Living Today.

You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch."

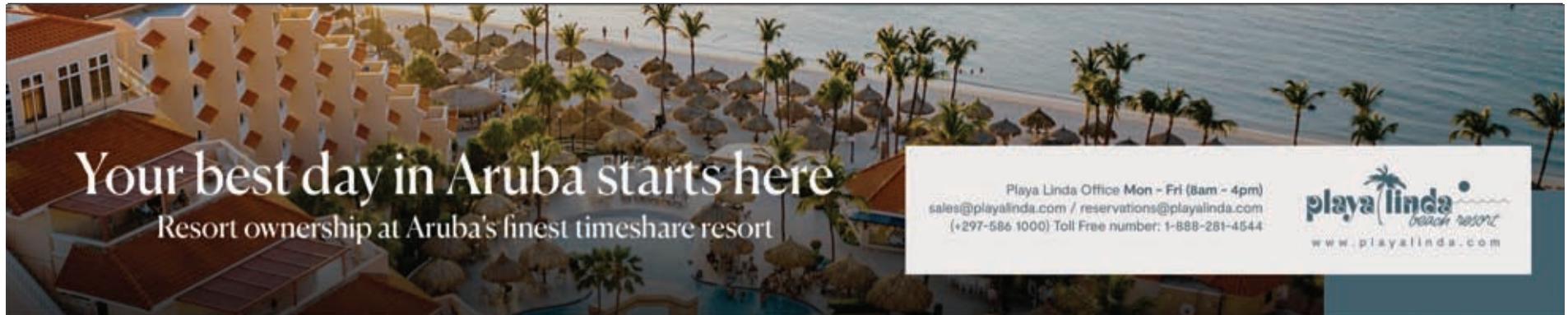


Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that, Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers.

As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association, they are listed also on the website www.arabalisting.com within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island.

Aruba Living Today is featured on House Hunters, social media, Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. □

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Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas
Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.



this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these

beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small

bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □

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Episode 34

Managing unique values as economic essentials

The intrinsic nature and indispensable quality of this travel destination, relies on its age old desert landscape, its surrounding oceans, beaches and its cultural heritage, but most of all is its friendly and proud native protagonists of our tourist industry, being key factor of its success. These are the central incomparable elements which deliver its fascinating and relaxing satisfaction. It is time to realize what one should do regarding over-exploiting just for the sake making profit, and not considering a sustainable existence on an eco-conscious territory. This way of doing business has proven to feed disastrous results,

when happy-go-lucky will cost you an eye. As risky as forcing your only golden egg-laying goose beyond intensive.

At this time, we as an island nation stand at that point, where government, commerce and the general public should determine our character and make their unconditional choice for the island's future, considering demographics and Aruba's geo-physical limitations.

Redefine the product destination. Reconsider all assets. Recognize and respect local essences of existing cultural aspects and all native species, since



these two are at risk of becoming endangered, even extinct as a species. It is in hand of the general public to requesting legislative protection safeguarding and guaranteed protection for our ecosystem's existence for our next generation of visitors. We must create awareness of our, yet unfathomed, assets which could be lost without ever knowing of their existence.

We emphasized the on issues such as loyal return visitor complaints, native Aruban's dissatisfaction with product saturation. Loss of charm from the moment the Aruban friendliness in services and attention has been substituted

by cheaper imported labor force, add to that the destruction of nature and ecosystems, the dramatic demographic growth and influx of migrants and illegal aliens. All this devalues the quality of service; elevates taxes, affects spending, the economy and life as a whole.

Our goal as a privately operated cultural awareness and advocates of consciousness starts every morning at our atelier, promotion, encouragement and education regarding these valuable assets to protect as mother seed for renewal and reinvention.

Get involved and participate in one our mind

-opening sessions regarding the Aruba experience. Our small building and garden stands on 880m2 piece of land at Westpunt. Here we exhibit historical, as well as native Aruban inspired artworks and artifacts. Follow our guided tours conducted by its founder and curator, using art works, objects and artifacts to tell the story of Aruba. Uncover nature and island culture, through a educational and mind-opening session for the bohemian soul, the adventurous in spirit and those interested in acquiring insular knowledge. Interact and be contaminated with a good predisposition to share our concern in conserving your fragile travel destination.

Discover an Aruba in a way that no other could share with you. Explore and take your experience home with you. Our renowned indigenous and educational session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities takes place close to your hotels area. □

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Today is going to be a good day



(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up

at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living envi-

ronment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more informa-



tion.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour

A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok Na-

tional Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

Go for a shopping spree in the city center

Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suites, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more.

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 37 Enemies

1 Like sky-scrapers 38 Mini burger

5 Very serious 39 Opposed

10 "Garfield" dog 40 Endures

11 Left over

13 Flaring star

14 Irritate

15 Caribbean country

17 Motor need

18 African country

19 D.C. baseballer, for short

20 Ruby of films

21 Gershon of "Bound"

22 Company symbols

25 Fleet makeup

26 Kitchen appliance

27 Wallop

28 Earth: Prefix

29 African country

33 Hockey's Bobby

34 European country

35 1998 Winter Olympics site

**Saturday's answer**

DOWN

1 Salad

servers

2 Love to pieces

3 Pep up

4 Used for support

5 Ice cream treat

6 Shaq of the NBA

7 Except

8 European country

9 Depen-

dent

12 River

areas

16 Gets older

21 Overdo it

22 Secure

23 Compre-

hensive

24 Eurasian

country

25 Rail or

quail

27 Pays

tribute to

29 Painter

Edouard

30 Witch

31 Minotaur's

home

32 Desert

spot

36 TV

spots



8-14

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-14

CRYPTOQUOTE

H O S X I W W S B J N U O H N X

V N R S Q F S B Y S M H N T J T Y

H O T I U O H . — A Q V V Q M S

X H S C S J X

Saturday's Cryptoquote: EDUCATION IS THE PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE. FOR TOMORROW BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT TODAY. — MALCOLM X

As free press withers in El Salvador, pro-government social media influencers grow in power

By MEGAN JANETSKY

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Douglas Guzmán's TikTok feed was dotted with workout routines and videos showcasing his favorite parts of his country.

That changed about a year ago, as rights groups, civil society and even some officials criticized El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele for violating human rights in his crackdown on criminal gangs, and said that his unconstitutional bid for re-election would corrode the country's democracy. Within days of Bukele announcing his bid for a second five-year term, Guzmán's feed was plastered with videos describing Bukele as the "future liberator of Latin America" and slick montages of the leader's "mega-prison" for accused gangsters.

Views on the social media influencer's videos skyrocketed. The 39-year-old member of Bukele's party said he found a new mission: counteracting negative press from independent media about his populist president.

"(Journalists) don't know anything. All they do is sit at their desks and watch as President Bukele ... makes a massive effort to save thousands of lives. But they don't see that because they've never cared about the lives of Salvadorans," Guzmán said. "That's why we're here. To show the true reality."

Guzmán is part of an expanding network of social media personalities acting as a megaphone



Douglas Guzman takes video with his smartphone at Liberty Plaza in San Salvador, El Salvador, Saturday, June 24, 2023. Guzman is part of a network of social media personalities acting as a megaphone for, and cashing in on, El Salvador President Nayib Bukele's message.

(AP Photo/Salvador Melendez)

for the millennial leader.

At the same time Bukele has cracked down on the press, his government has embraced those influencers. As the president seeks to hold onto power, he has harnessed that flood of pro-Bukele content slowly turning his Central American nation into an informational echo chamber.

Bukele, a 42-year-old leader often donning a backwards baseball cap, worked years in political advertising before social media became a key to his rise to power five years ago. Since, his approval ratings have soared to 90%, according to a June CID Gallup poll. Bukele's modern political messaging, charisma and brutal crackdown on the country's gangs only continue to win him fans domestically and abroad even in the midst of controversy.

By doing so, Bukele is using a playbook increasingly utilized by 21st century autocrats, said Seva Gunitsky,

a political scientist at the University of Toronto.

Under Bukele, El Salvador constructed a sophisticated communications machine. It locked down access to information out of line with official messaging and hired teams of former journalists to produce blockbuster-quality videos showcasing security forces taking on the nation's gangs. The government also mimicked Russia, building an army of tech-savvy contractors – or "trolls" – to create fake social media accounts, spread falsities and harass critics.

At the same time his message of a strong-handed response to gang violence rippled across the region, gaining traction in other nations struggling with crime across Latin America and Caribbean.

A study by Picardo's university and local investigative outlet Factum examined 69 pro-Bukele YouTube accounts, which collectively have more followers than the population of El Salvador. They found many accounts – which make money through view and subscriber counts – can earn up to tens of thousands of dollars a month, far greater than El Salvador's average salary. That content is devoured both within El Salvador, and by many of the 2.3 million Salvadorans living in the United States. □

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Don't expect quick fixes in 'red-teaming' of AI models. Security was an afterthought

By FRANK BAJAK
AP Technology Writer

BOSTON (AP) — White House officials concerned by AI chatbots' potential for societal harm and the Silicon Valley powerhouses rushing them to market are heavily invested in a three-day competition ending Sunday at the DefCon hacker convention in Las Vegas.

Some 3,500 competitors have tapped on laptops seeking to expose flaws in eight leading large-language models representative of technology's next big thing. But don't expect quick results from this first-ever independent "red-teaming" of multiple models.

Findings won't be made public until about February. And even then, fixing flaws in these digital constructs — whose inner workings are neither wholly trustworthy nor fully fathomed even by their creators — will take time and millions of dollars.

Current AI models are simply too unwieldy, brittle and malleable, academic and corporate research shows. Security was an afterthought in their training as data scientists amassed breathtakingly complex collections of images and text. They are prone to racial and cultural biases, and easily manipulated.

Conventional software uses well-defined code to issue explicit, step-by-step instructions. OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard and other language models are different. Trained largely by ingesting — and classifying — billions of datapoints in internet crawls, they are perpetual works-in-progress, an unsettling prospect given their transformative potential for humanity.

After publicly releasing chatbots last fall, the generative AI industry has had to repeatedly plug security holes exposed by researchers and tinkerers.

Tom Bonner of the AI security firm HiddenLayer, a speaker at this year's Def-



FILE - The OpenAI logo is seen on a mobile phone in front of a computer screen which displays output from ChatGPT, Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in Boston. White House officials concerned about AI chatbots' potential for societal harm and the Silicon Valley powerhouses rushing them to market are heavily invested in a three-day competition ending Sunday, Aug. 13, at the DefCon hacker convention in Las Vegas. Some 3,500 competitors have tapped on laptops seeking to expose vulnerabilities in eight leading large-language models representative of technology's next big thing.

Con, tricked a Google system into labeling a piece of malware harmless merely by inserting a line that said "this is safe to use."

"There are no good guardrails," he said.

Another researcher had ChatGPT create phishing emails and a recipe to violently eliminate humanity, a violation of its ethics code. A team including Carnegie Mellon researchers found leading chatbots vulnerable to automated attacks that also produce harmful content. "It is possible that the very nature of deep learning models makes such threats inevitable," they wrote.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

It's not as if alarms weren't sounded.

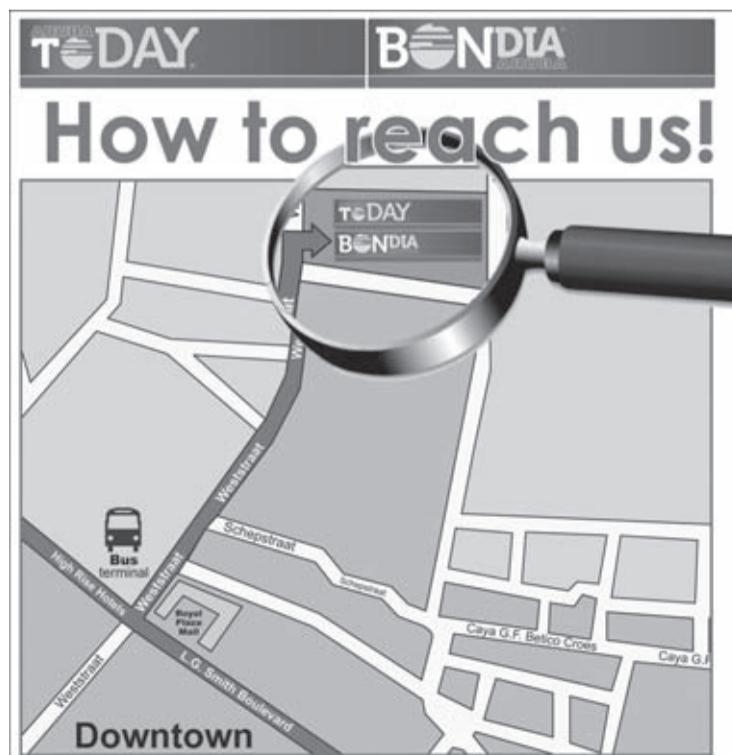
In its 2021 final report, the U.S. National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence said attacks on commercial AI systems were already happening and "with rare exceptions, the idea of protecting AI systems has been an afterthought in engineering and fielding AI systems, with inadequate investment in research and development." Serious hacks, regularly reported just a few years ago, are now barely disclosed. Too much is at stake and, in the absence of regulation, "people can sweep things under the rug

at the moment and they're doing so," said Bonner.

Attacks trick the artificial intelligence logic in ways that may not even be clear to their creators. And chatbots are especially vulnerable because we interact with them directly in plain language. That interaction can alter them in unexpected ways.

Researchers have found that "poisoning" a small collection of images or text in the vast sea of data used to train AI systems can wreak havoc — and be easily overlooked.

A study co-authored by Florian Tramér of the Swiss University ETH Zurich determined that corrupting just 0.01% of a model was enough to spoil it — and cost as little as \$60. The researchers waited for a handful of websites used in web crawls for two models to expire. Then they bought the domains and posted bad data on them. □



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'Barbie' has legs: Greta Gerwig's film tops box office again and gives industry a midsummer surge

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Barbie" has legs. Director Greta Gerwig's film phenomenon remained a runaway No. 1 at the box office in its fourth week, bringing in \$33.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Margot Robbie-led and produced film from Warner Bros., still in 4,137 theaters, refused to drop off as most box-office toppers have this year, surpassing \$500 million in North America overall a week after it crossed the \$1 billion mark globally — a record for a female director.

The second half of the "Barbenheimer" duo, "Oppenheimer," returned to the No. 2 spot in its own fourth week after a week at No. 3 overall. The Christopher Nolan-directed film from Universal Pictures brought in \$18.8 million from 3,761 locations for an overall domestic total of \$264.3 million.

The top pair had thin competition. The week's only major wide release, Universal's "The Last Voyage of the Demeter," finished fifth with a \$6.5 million opening weekend. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem," in its second week, earned \$15.6 million domestically for third



The marquee of the Los Feliz Theatre features the films "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer," Friday, July 28, 2023, in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

place, and the Jason Statham shark sequel, "Meg 2: The Trench," brought in \$12.7 million, dropping from second to fifth in its second week in theaters.

"Barbie" is poised to become 2023's top film. Its \$526.3 million domestic total and \$1.18 billion global bankroll currently sits second behind "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," which earned \$574.2 million North America, and \$1.358 billion globally in the spring. It's also the second-highest grossing film in the history of

"Warner Bros.," behind only 2011's "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2."

The sustained performance of the Mattel movie continues to flip the script on what had been a weak year in theaters, with major sequels underperforming including "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" and "Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part I," which remained in the top 10 this week with \$4.7 million. "'Barbie' is as hot a commodity as it was in its first week. It's just ensconced at the No. 1 spot,

and I don't know if it's going anywhere soon," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "And Oppenheimer right there with it. They're just drafting off each other in this box office NASCAR race." The midsummer "Barbenheimer" put the industry-wide summer total ahead of 2022. It was lagging behind just a month ago. "If you think of what 'Barbie' and 'Oppenheimer' together — just those two movies — have contributed in these weekends at

the box office, it's really a staggering number," Dergarabedian said.

All movies combined this summer have earned \$3.63 billion in North America. With significant releases remaining in August, including DC Comics' "Blue Beetle," the video game adaptation "Gran Turismo," and the Denzel Washington sequel "The Equalizer 3," the box office has a chance of reaching the \$4 billion that was considered a domestic benchmark for a strong summer before the pandemic.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Barbie," \$33.7 million.
2. "Oppenheimer," \$18.8 million.
3. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem," \$15.6 million.
4. "Meg 2: The Trench," \$12.7 million.
5. "The Last Voyage of the Demeter," \$6.5 million.
6. "Haunted Mansion," \$5.6 million.
7. "Talk to Me," \$5.1 million.
8. "Sound of Freedom," \$4.8 million.
9. "Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part I," \$4.7 million.
10. "Jailer," 2.6 million. □

Miss Universe cuts ties with Indonesian organizer as sexual harassment allegations swirl

By NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) —

The Miss Universe Organization has cut its ties with its Indonesian franchisee and will cancel an upcoming pageant in Malaysia after contestants complained to police, accusing local organizers of sexual harassment.

The New York-based organization said in a statement late Saturday it had decided to sever ties with PT Capella Swastika Karya, and its National Director, Poppy Capella.

Six contestants of a Miss Universe Indonesia pageant recently filed complaints with police, accusing local organizers of asking them to strip to their underwear for "body checks" for scars or cellulite, in a room with about two dozen people present, including men. Five of the contestants said they were then photographed topless.

"In light of what we have learned took place at Miss Universe Indonesia, it has become clear that this franchise has not lived up to our brand standards and

ethics," the Miss Universe Organization said on the social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

The organization also said it would be cancelling this year's Miss Universe Malaysia as the Indonesian franchisee also holds the license for the pageant. It said it would make arrangements for the Indonesia 2023 title holder to compete in Miss Universe pageant to be held in El Salvador late this year.

The Miss Universe Indonesia pageant was held from July 29 to Aug. 3 to choose In-

donesia's representative to the 2023 Miss Universe contest, and was won by Fabienne Nicole Groeneveld.

PT Capella Swastika Karya is an Indonesian beauty company which took over the license for Miss Universe Indonesia in March from Yayasan Putri Indonesia or YPI, an Indonesian foundation that held the license for 30 years.

Hengki Haryadi, the Jakarta police director for general crimes, said Sunday that during a Miss Universe Indonesia pageant held in the capital, Jakarta, from

July 29 to Aug. 3, the victims were forced to remove their clothes and were photographed naked for physical examination in a hotel ballroom.

"These victims feel forced to take off their clothes and pose inappropriately for body checking that traumatized them," Haryadi said.

He added that police are still examining surveillance cameras from the scene. Investigators will interview the victims and provide psychological assistance, he said. □

Triolo' 1st big league homer leads Pirates over Reds 4-2 in doubleheader opener

By DAN SCIFO

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jared Triolo hit his first major league home run, a three-run drive as a pinch hitter in the seventh inning, and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Cincinnati Reds 4-2 in a doubleheader opener Sunday.

Pittsburgh overcame a 2-0 deficit against the Reds, who lost for the ninth time in 11 games.

Alex Williams started the comeback with an RBI single in the fifth.

Liover Peguero walked against Lucas Sims starting the seventh and pinch-hitter Endy Rodriguez walked with one out against Alex Young (4-1).

Triolo, in his 116th at-bat and 128th plate appearance, drove a full-count changeup to left.

Angel Perdomo (3-2) pitched a hitless seventh inning. David Bednar allowed a ninth-inning triple to Will Benson but got his 24th save in 27 chances.

Young lost for the first time with the Reds.

Mitch Keller allowed two runs — one earned — five hits and three walks in six innings with seven strikeouts. Reds starter Brandon Williamson gave up one run and two hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Christian Encarnacion-Strand had an RBI single in the fourth and Matt McLain hit a run-scoring double in the fifth.

Pittsburgh right-hander Andre Jackson (0-0, 5.16 ERA) and Cincinnati right-hander Luke Weaver (2-4, 6.75) were to start the second game, necessitated by a rainout Saturday.

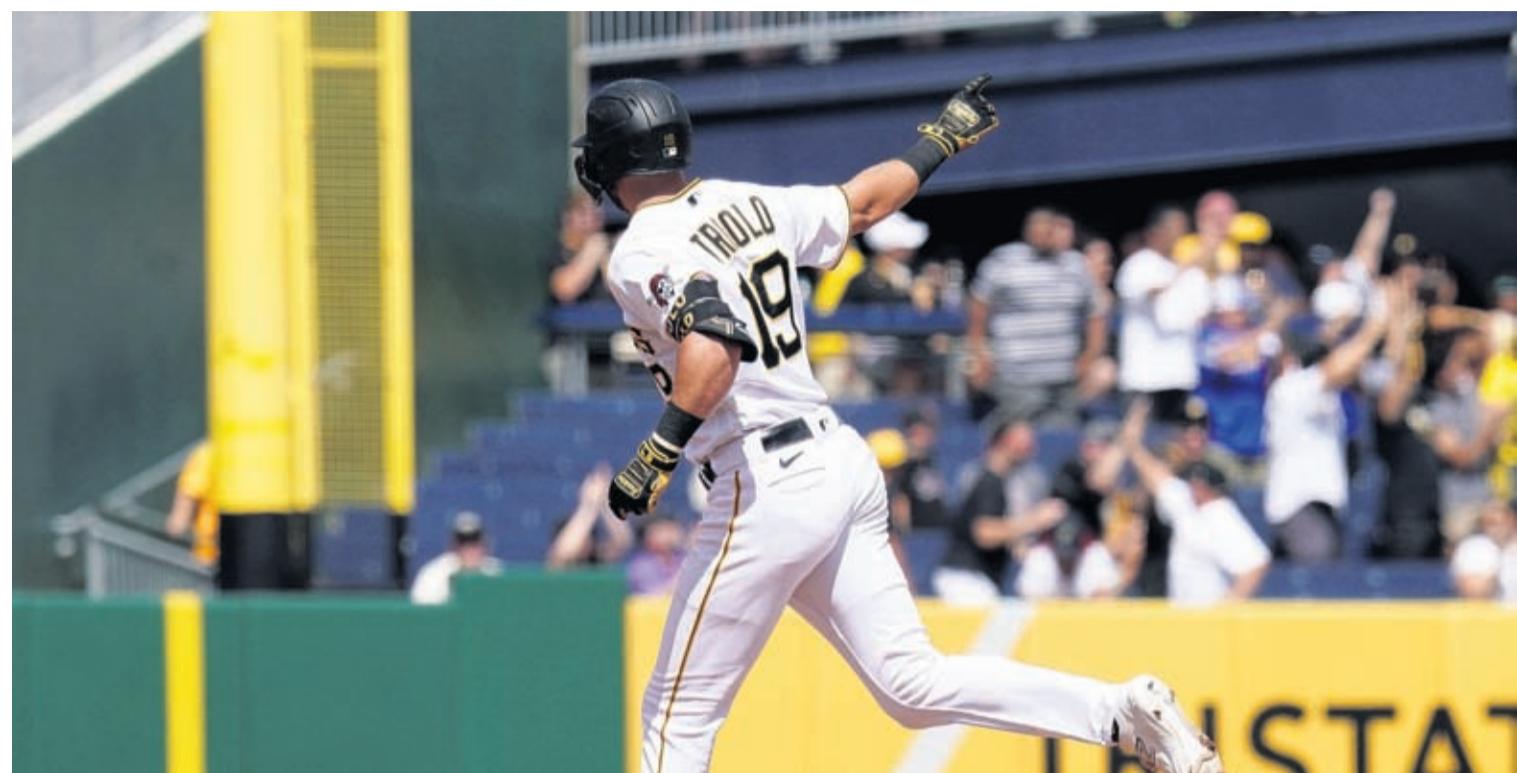
TRAINER'S ROOM

Reds: RHP Ben Lively (right pectoral muscle strain) was sent to Louisville on a rehabilitation assignment. Lively, who has been on the IL since Aug. 2, is 4-7 with a 5.20 ERA.

UP NEXT

Reds: RHP Graham Ashcraft (6-7, 4.95) is scheduled to start Tuesday against visiting Cleveland and LHP Logan Allen (5-5, 3.55 ERA).

Pirates: RHP Carlos Carrasco (3-6, 6.42) starts for the



Pittsburgh Pirates' Jared Triolo rounds the bases after hitting a three-run home run against the Cincinnati Reds during the seventh inning in the first baseball game of a doubleheader in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023.

(AP Photo/Matt Freed)

New York Mets in Monday's series opener against visiting Pittsburgh. □



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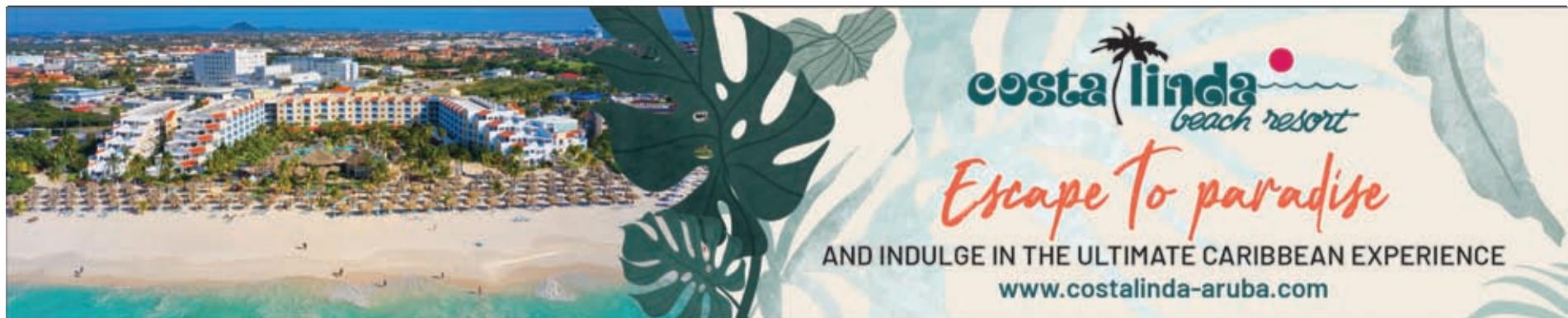
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From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.



You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! □



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedge-aruba.com